

Semliki (*Neave*). Type (a slightly immature specimen) from the Upper Welle.

A young example of this species shows the outer dark lines more plainly than the adults.

V.—*Two new Tuco-tucos from Argentina.*

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

Ctenomys latro, sp. n.

Near *C. tucumanus*.

Size about as in *tucumanus*. General colour paler than the peculiar dark fawn of *tucumanus*, more as in *dorsalis*, buffy fawn on sides of head, on back, and on flanks, but the middle area of the face and crown dark brown. Under surface broadly washed with pale buffy ("light buff"), the throat whiter, and a patch on the chest darker, near "avellaneous," very like the belly-colour of *C. tucumanus*; the colours of upper and under surfaces rather sharply distinguished. Behind each ear a light buffy patch runs downwards and backwards on the side of the neck. Tail dark brown on whole breadth of upper surface, pale buffy on sides and below.

Skull of about the same general shape as in *C. tucumanus*, similarly low and flattened, though the brain-case is narrower. Muzzle unusually broadened, owing to a peculiar thickening of the bone outside the anterior half of the buried part of the incisors. Nasals broad, abruptly and squarely truncated behind, where they are considerably surpassed by the ends of the premaxillary processes, their sides forming straight converging lines instead of the curves found in *tucumanus*. Zygomata as widely expanded as in *tucumanus*, but distinctly shorter antero-posteriorly; a groove present along the upper outer edge of the malar, not found in any of our five skulls of *tucumanus*. Temporal ridges uniting to form a low median sagittal crest, the ridges being quite separated in older specimens of *tucumanus*. Supraoccipital smooth, without the median ridge present in adult *tucumanus*. Bullæ slightly smaller than in *tucumanus*, but still smooth and well inflated, not contracted as in *Ct. pontifex*.

Incisors of the normal set and usual orange-colour. Molars rather smaller and more delicate than in *tucumanus*, p^4 exceeding the molars in diagonal diameter rather less than is

usual. The two rows of cheek-teeth a little nearer together than in *tucumanus*.

Dimensions of the type (measured by collector in the flesh):—

Head and body 170 mm.; tail 71; hind foot 29.

Skull: condylo-incisive length 45.2; condylo-basal length 43.6; zygomatic breadth 29; breadth across swollen part of muzzle 11.8; nasals, length 13.5, breadth anteriorly 7, posteriorly 3.9; interorbital breadth 10; breadth across brain-case 16.1; posterior breadth on lips of meatus 26.3; palatilar length 21.6; upper tooth-series 8.8; diagonal diameter of p^4 3.5, of m^1 3.3.

Hab. Tucuman. Type from Tapia, about 20 miles north of Tucuman City. Alt. 600 m.

Type. Adult male, with basilar suture closed. B.M. no. 2. 1. 5. 13. Collected 28th October, 1901, by L. Dinelli. Presented by Oldfield Thomas. One specimen only.

This species is no doubt most closely allied to its geographical neighbour *C. tucumanus*, but, as may be seen above, differs both in colour and in quite a number of cranial characters as compared with a set of five good examples of the older-known species.

Ctenomys pontifex, sp. n.

A medium-sized species without special markings, the bullæ very narrow.

Size about as in *C. latro*. Colour above uniform drab-brown without darker markings; below paler and more buffy. Tail brown above for its whole breadth, whitish below.

Skull rather narrow, the zygomata not widely expanded. Nasals long, nearly parallel-sided, slightly surpassed behind by the premaxillary processes. Brain-case scarcely ridged. Zygomata with the median ascending process rather farther back than usual, the orbital fossæ therefore proportionally large as compared with the temporal fossæ. Mesopterygoid fossa narrow. Bullæ long, low and narrow, in marked contrast to those of *C. mendocinus*, more like those of the otherwise very different *C. frater*.

Incisors and cheek-teeth normal, p^4 of scarcely greater diameter than m^1 .

Dimensions of the type (measured on skin):—

Head and body 183 mm.; tail 77; hind foot 34.

Skull: approximate condylo-incisive length 44; zygomatic breadth 26.5; muzzle, breadth anteriorly 9.8, between ante-orbital foramina 8; nasals, length 18, breadth anteriorly 7,

posteriorly 6·2; interorbital breadth 9·5; breadth across brain-case 17·8; palatilar length 21; upper tooth-series 10; diagonal diameter of p^4 3·6, of m^1 3·5.

Hab. "East side of the Andes near Fort San Rafael, Province of Mendoza."

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 60.1.5.2. Collected by Mr. T. Bridges. Presented by G. R. Waterhouse.

Mr. Bridges collected in this region a number of tuco-tucos which have hitherto been assigned to Philippi's *Ctenomys mendocinus**, but I now find that they belong to two quite distinct species—the one with normally inflated rounded bullæ and the other with very narrow ones. Now it fortunately happens that the Museum contains a series of mammals purchased of Gerrard in 1873 which were labelled with Philippi's names in what I believe to be his handwriting, and among them is a tuco-tuco from "Mendoza" labelled *Ct. mendocinus*, which, in the absence of other evidence, we may accept as typical. This specimen has the full rounded bullæ usual in the genus, and I therefore describe as new the one with the narrow bullæ.

VI.—*Protoëchinus* Austin.

By F. A. BATHER, D.Sc., F.R.S.

(Published by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum.)

[Plate II.]

PREVIOUS HISTORY.

IN December 1860 Fort-Major Thomas Austin published in 'The Geologist' (iii. pp. 446-448) a paper "On a new Genus of Echinoderm, &c." This was *Protoëchinus*, so called because its author believed it to be "one of the first, if not the very first true echinus, that appeared on our globe."

The Genotype was the unique species *Protoëchinus anceps*, of which three specimens had been "found in the lower beds, but not the very lowest, of the Carboniferous Limestone [Lowest Tournaisian], at Hook Point, county of Wexford," Ireland. One of these specimens "fell into unscientific hands, and was lost to science." Another was imperfectly preserved. Of the third a rough woodcut was given, and it is this which must be regarded as the Holotype.

The Holotype is No. 401 of the Austin Collection in the

* Arch. f. Nat. xxxv. p. 38 (1869).